

REMARKS

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for reciting “a mesh inside the channel”, without specifying which channel. Claim 23 has been amended to specify that the mesh is inside the inlet or outlet channel.

Claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis. Claims 18-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shipwash. Claims 18 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shipwah in view of Anderson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to specify that the claimed Raman detection units are “configured to perform surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS).” New claim 36 is the same as previous claim 18, but specifies that the SERS active particles are in the inlet and outlet channels. These amendments are supported by paragraphs [0021] and [0110]. New claims 37-40 correspond to previously filed claims 19, 20, 22 and 23. No new matter has been added.

SERS utilizes specifically designed particles to enhance the Raman spectrum of analytes. Davis, Shipwash and Anderson do not disclose or suggest apparatuses utilizing SERS or SERS active particles as claimed. Further, the Examiner does not cite any of these references as disclosing such an apparatus. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 18-23, should be withdrawn. In addition, new claims 36-40 should also be allowed.

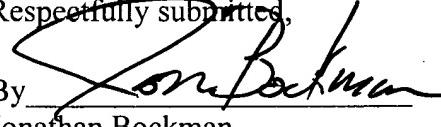
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **070702007900**.

Dated: October 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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